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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

*Damage of Civilian Structures and Civilian
Casualties in the Hanoi-Haiphong Area
10 April to 22 May 1967*

--- **Secret**

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31 May 1967
No. 0652/67

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Damage of Civilian Structures and
Civilian Casualties in the Hanoi-Haiphong Area
10 April to 22 May 1967*

Summary

The recent extension of the Rolling Thunder program to include attacks against military and economic targets in the heavily defended and densely populated areas around Hanoi and Haiphong has resulted in remarkably light damage to civilian structures.

During the period 10 April - 22 May strikes against 39 major targets in the Hanoi-Haiphong area and the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex resulted in the destruction of 216 and damage to 50 civilian structures. Most of these were single-family residences.

Over 60 percent of the structures destroyed were at Yen Vien, the location of a rail classification yard. This yard is a small and extremely narrow target located in the midst of a densely populated area. An unknown amount of this damage was inflicted prior to 10 April 1967.



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North Vietnamese propaganda has cited the attacks on these facilities as a savage slaughter of defenseless women and children. Hanoi claims a total of 725 civilian casualties during the period 10 April - 20 May 1967. An intelligence assessment [redacted] yields an estimate of about 240 casualties in areas where civilian structures were damaged. An additional 100-200 industrial workers may also have been casualties, for a total in the order of 500 casualties. Although the North Vietnamese claim of 725 is not a patent fabrication it should be regarded as a maximum claim.

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Most of the damage to civilian structures is the result of bombs missing their targets. Falling shrapnel, malfunctioning SAM's and jettisoned bombs account for only a small share of the damage and civilian casualties.

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1. Thirty-nine targets of military or economic significance located within or close to Hanoi and Haiphong were attacked during the period 10 April - 22 May 1967. []

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During the same period an additional 100 attack sorties were flown in the same area against other pre-planned and armed reconnaissance targets such as bridges, barges, storage areas and AAA sites.

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3. Analysis

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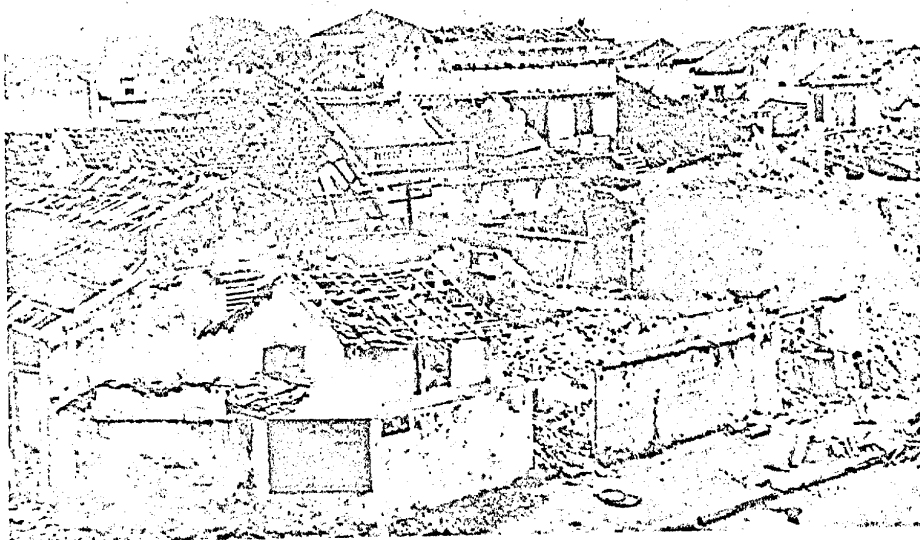
reveals damage to

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Figure 1

BOMB DAMAGE TO CIVILIAN HOUSING IN HANOI



This photograph released by the North Vietnamese press claimed extensive rocket damage to 13 civilian structures on 13 December along Nguyen Thiep Street--located approximately 100 feet northwest of the Doumer Bridge in Hanoi.

25X1 [REDACTED] confirms extensive damage to about ten structures though it appears the most severe damage was in an area not shown in this photograph.

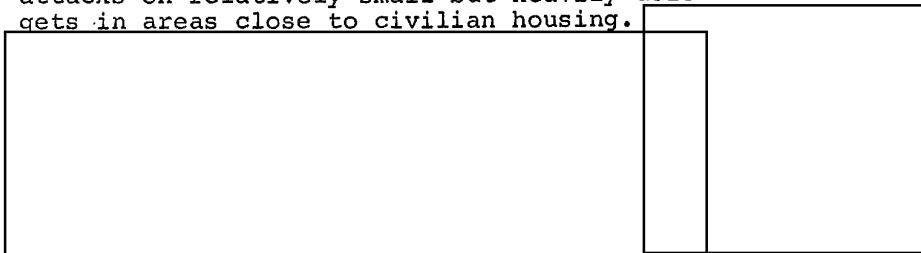
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civilian buildings at 17 locations.* Most of the damage occurred to single-story housing in heavily built-up residential areas close to the targets under attack. (See Figure 1.) The distribution of the damaged civilian structures is shown in the following tabulation.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Civilian Structures</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	
Haiphong	27	21	48
Hanoi	162	19	181
Thai Nguyen	27	10	37
Total	216	50	266

4. The amount of damage to civilian structures is surprisingly light in view of the intensity of the attacks on relatively small but heavily defended targets in areas close to civilian housing.



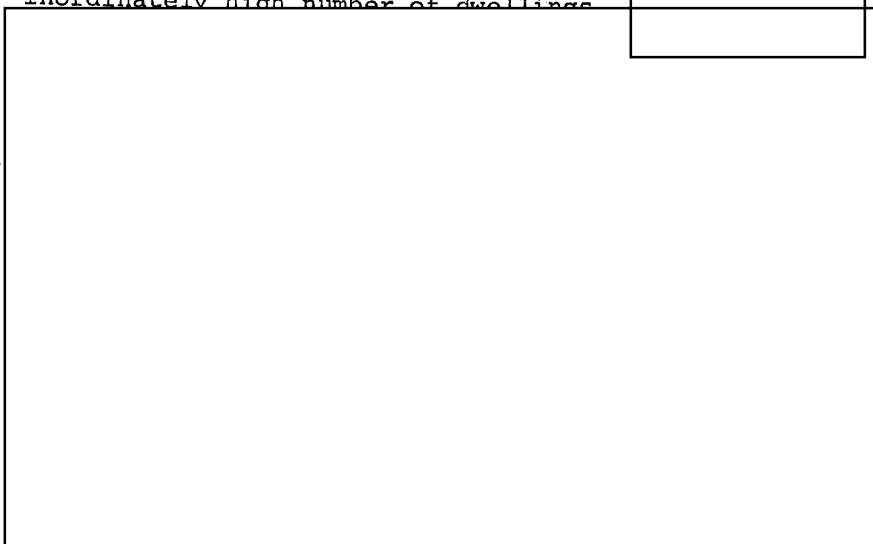
5. An extreme example of damage to civilian structures resulted from attacks on the Yen Vien Railroad Classification Yard which destroyed 135 civilian buildings. The Yen Vien case is atypical.** Railroad classification yards are small and narrow



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targets. It is common for residential housing to be in dense clusters immediately adjacent to the tracks so that even the most accurate bombing will hit an inordinately high number of dwellings.



North Vietnamese Claims

8. North Vietnamese propaganda statements since the intensification of US air strikes against targets in the Hanoi/Haiphong areas have continued to "report" the savagery of the bombings and the accompanying slaughter of defenseless women and children. There has, however, been no dramatic change in the shrillness of the North Vietnamese protest nor has there been any obviously gross falsification in their claims of civilian casualties.

9. The number of casualties as a result of attacks against important economic or military targets are never reported. The North Vietnamese reported, for example, that seven persons were killed and 25 wounded when the Haiphong Enamelware Factory was hit on 20 April but made no mention of casualties at the adjacent Haiphong Thermal Power Plant West, the target

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that was actually under attack. Schools, hospitals, churches, soap factories, and cigarette factories are, according to the North Vietnamese, the targets of US air attacks. Powerplants, when mentioned at all, are described as public utilities in an obvious attempt to attribute no military value to them. North Vietnamese reporting on damage to civilian areas also is conspicuously silent on such facts as the close location of these areas to important economic or military targets, or the fact that AAA batteries are frequently located in civilian areas.

10. A summary of North Vietnamese claims regarding civilian casualties in the Hanoi-Haiphong areas since 12 April is given below:

North Vietnamese Claims of Civilian Casualties;*
Hanoi/Haiphong Areas, 10 April - 20 May 1967

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Casualties</u>	
		<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
12 April	Haiphong	4	12
20 April	Haiphong	44	117
25 April	Hanoi suburbs	80	120
25 April	Haiphong	20	60
7 April**	Haiphong and Hanoi	80	120
14 May	Hanoi	13	35
19 May	Hanoi	<u>20</u>	<u>N.A.</u>
		261	464

11. The total of 725 casualties, 261 killed and 464 wounded,** is based on North Vietnam press and radio reports

**In some cases total casualty claims have been apportioned between killed or wounded and non-specific casualty claims have been quantified.*

***Reported to have occurred "recently."*

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for the period of 10 April to 20 May and excludes casualties that resulted from the 21 May attack on the Hanoi Thermal Power Plant. Some of the North Vietnamese casualty figures undoubtedly include double counting, particularly the casualties occurring in the Hanoi suburbs on 25 April which were totaled from fragmented and probably overlapping reporting. On the other hand, it is possible that some casualties that occurred in outlying districts were not included in the initial North Vietnamese propaganda announcements. North Vietnamese casualty announcements generally agreed with respect to date and location with known US air operations.

Reliability of North Vietnamese Claims

12. Estimates of the total number of casualties resulting from specific strikes are difficult to make. Past experience does make it possible, however, to arrive at an approximation of civilian casualties which is useful in putting the North Vietnamese casualty claims in perspective.



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structures were damaged. If this estimate were expanded on the basis of the number of attack sorties to include target areas for which no photographic coverage exists, it would increase to about 240 casualties.

14. These estimates of casualties in civilian housing areas do not include casualties which occurred at the 197 industrial/storage buildings which photography confirms were damaged or destroyed. These casualties cannot be estimated precisely because of a lack

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of data on the number of workers in the buildings, and uncertainties about the amount of prior warning, and the efficacy of shelter provisions. The number of casualties among industrial workers is also dependent upon the type of industrial installation being attacked. The power plants attacked in North Vietnam have small labor forces, probably not more than 100-200 workers in each. The Haiphong Cement Plant, however, has a labor force of 1,500. Railroad repair shops would also be expected to have a relatively large labor force. It would not be unreasonable, therefore, to expect that an additional 200 industrial workers could have been casualties, bringing the total casualty estimate close to 500.

15. North Vietnam's propagandists can be expected to dramatize the number of casualties reported to foreigners in order to shore up their allegations of "US atrocities." Furthermore, multiple press and radio reportings result in some double counting. Overall, Hanoi's casualty propaganda is of mixed reliability. The statistics on physical damage which appeared in their "Report on US War Crimes in Nam Dinh city" were remarkably accurate when checked against aerial photography. In other instances, however, casualties have been claimed in areas not even attacked by US aircraft. For these reasons, the tally of 725 casualties from North Vietnam sources should be regarded as a maximum claim.

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